Saving one pet won't change the world, but for that one pet, the world will certainly change





SHAR PEI & PIT BULL MIX John is a med. young male



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Crabs: Crustacians travel far for food

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with them the tags that cost \$300 each. Crabbers usually target sandy areas with their pots because they're less likely to get tangled on the sea floor.

"There just isn't a lot of food down there," said Henkel, who works out of OSU's Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. "There's usually only very small worms and clams, yet there's an enormous crab harvest each year and most of that is from sandy-bottomed regions."

Henkel tagged an additional 20 crabs and dropped them into the water near Cape Falcon, which has rockier habitat and is about 10 miles south of Cannon Beach. Only four crabs left the region right away; the other 16 stayed an average of 25 days. One stayed for 117 days.

"Even though it's a small sample size, it's clear that habitat can influence crab movement," Henkel said. "The crabs in the rocky areas had more to eat, but they often also have mossy bellies, which may not be as desirable commercially. Commercial crabbers like to target migrating crabs in sandy areas that tend to have smooth bellies."

Henkel's theory is that Dungeness crabs may travel far and wide in search of food, and when they find it, they'll stay put.

"We heard from a fisherman who caught one of our tagged crabs in 70 meters of water near Astoria Canyon, who then let the crab go," Henkel said. "A few days later, another crabber caught the same crab in Grays Harbor, Wash."

Studies by Henkel and others have shown that Dungeness crabs will range an average of 11.5 miles, and some extend that range to more than 50 miles.

While listening for crabs, Henkel and her colleagues picked up other signals from the transmitters. When they contacted other researchers, they learned that 35 of the acoustic "pings" came from green sturgeon that had been tagged for other studies.

Seven additional "pings" came from great white sharks near Cape Falcon.

"The great white sharks were tagged in Northern California and we detected them – up here in December and January," Henkel said. "They were very close to shore, which is interesting. In the three years we had acoustic receivers at a site about seven miles off the coast near Newport, we never detected a single shark."